

Development of Large Cooled Telescope System for the SPICA Mission

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The SPICA mission requires a large aperture mirror (3.5 m) for cryogenic use. C/SiC composite and SiC have been selected as the prime candidate materials for the SPICA telescope mirror. Several improvements in the C/SiC fabrication technology have been made and a 700 cm C/SiC mirror blank has been successfully produced. The cryogenic performance of C/SiC mirrors is being tested. The supporting structure for cryogenic use will become one of the key issues in the design.